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Letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a note verbale dated 20 March 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. The note protests against the ongoing Iranian violations in the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which have been occupied by Iran since 1971. The violations are in flagrant violation of the territorial sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and they represent an attempt to perpetuate the Iranian occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad J. **Samhan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Note verbale dated 20 March 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

The Ministry wishes to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the visit of 17 members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iran's Consultative Assembly to the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and the construction of installations for the settlement of Iranians in the three islands, as reported by the Iranian information media, are to be regarded as a flagrant violation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands. This action is to be regarded as the imposition of an illegal fait accompli and an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of the three islands and to alter their demographic character for the purpose of distorting their legal and historical status, which is incompatible with the relevant Geneva Convention of 1949.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates wishes to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it protests against this unlawful action in the strongest terms. It regards this and all previous measures taken by Iranian Governments in the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as null and void, as illegal and as conferring no legal rights on the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the three islands. The Government of the United Arab Emirates further urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to desist from this policy and from constructing any installations in the three islands and to rescind all of the measures taken and remove all of the installations built by the Iranian Government in the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over its islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa; it reiterates that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the three islands; and it reserves all of its rights with respect to the islands.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.